

ARTICLES, RULES,

AND

REGULATIONS,

FOR FORMING A

SOCIETY

IN

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,

TO BE CALLED THE

LIBERAL SOCIETY

OF

TRADESMEN.

NORTH SHIELDS:

Printed for WILLIAM BARNES,

1797.

299

ADDITIONAL

RECORDS

3000

RECORDED



W. H. & S. M. D.

NOTICE

RECORDED

VI
1877

P R E F A C E.

MAN, by the Construction of his Body, and Disposition of his Mind, is a Creature formed for Society. The Body being subject to Infirmary and Disease, is exposed to Difficulties that would involve him in Despair and Death, but for the friendly Aid of his fellow Mortal, whose sympathetic Nature prompts him to cheer and alleviate the Anguish of an afflicted Brother. The Mind, a much more exalted and active Principle, would suffer much in its Energy, and more in its Enjoyments, was it denied the mutual Comforts and Advantages of Society — Hence come the Utility and Necessity of Associations of this Nature, which, when conducted with Prudence and Frugality, cannot well fail to produce the most beneficial Consequences.

The Vicissitudes to which Mankind are liable, are as numerous as they are various, and happen to the Wise and Good, as well as to the Inconsiderate; it is a Duty therefore every one owes to the Community at large, to encourage every Attempt calculated to soften and relieve the Wants of others, whilst it holds out the same Prospect to themselves, should the Providence of Almighty God reduce them to Circumstances requiring it.

*As there are also Diversities of Dispositions amongst
Men,*

Men, which, though in a general Point of View, are wisely ordained, as they much contribute to the Hoppiness of the Whole; yet in select Societies, much Discord and Disorder may arise, from an indiscriminate Admission of Members; to prevent which, as much as may be, this Society have determined to admit none but such as are recommended for Sobriety, and who shall be a Principal, or Master, in his respective Profession. Many of this Description, living in a comfortable Competency, while Health has been afforded them, have, with their Families, by Sickness, endured many galling Difficulties,—but when Death has put a Period to the Head and Hope of the Family, involved in Penury and Woe, what Language can convey the Horrors of their Situation—Pity bleeds at the mournful Sight, and Sympathy drops a Tear at a Scene so deplorable. Then, assuredly, such a Provision as is intended by this Institution, must prove, in many Cases, a most seasonable Relief.

Nor can we let slip so suitable an Occasion to express, thus publickly and unequivocally, our affectionate Loyalty to the King, and our sincere Attachment to the Constitution.—In fine, it is the Intention of this Society, to alleviate the Distresses, and, by pecuniary Aid, to assist each other, strictly conformable to the following Rules.

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* * * The LETTERS denote the ARTICLE, and
the FIGURES the PAGE wanted.



ARTICLES, RULES, &c.

WE, the several Persons signing these Presents, and whose respective Places of Abode and Trades, with our respective Ages, and the Time of our respectively signing these Presents, are set down and written immediately after our respective Names, do and each and every of us doth hereby severally and respectively, for ourselves, and for our several and respective Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, and not jointly or the one for the others or other of them, or for the Heirs, Executors, and Administrators of one another, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with each and every other and others of us, and our several and respective Executors and Administrators, to unite and form Ourselves into a Society, in NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, to be called the LIBERAL SOCIETY OF TRADESMEN, as and from the second Day of February, one Thousand seven Hundred and Ninety-one, under and subject to such Rules, Articles, Orders, and Regulations, as are hereinafter mentioned and expressed; (that is to say)

B

THAT

Introduc-
tion.

1.

Persons and
Manner
of Admission

THAT this Society shall never consist of more than One Hundred and One Members; and that no Journeymen of any Branch, or menial Servant of any Kind, shall be admitted as Members of this Society; and that each Candidate, before Admission, shall be first recommended by one or more Member or Members of this Society, at one of their Meetings, and at the next Meeting the Members then present shall determine, by Ballot, in manner hereinafter mentioned, the Admission or Rejection of such Candidate or Candidates; and every Candidate must appear in the Club-Room, personally, before such Ballot takes Place; and that the Member who proposes such Candidate or Candidates, shall deposit with this Society Five Shillings for each Candidate at the Time he is proposed a Candidate; and if such Candidate or Candidates so proposed do not appear at the Club-Room, when and where the Society shall meet, within two Meetings next after his or their being so proposed, then the said Sum of Five Shillings shall become forfeited to this Society; but if such Candidate or Candidates shall be rejected by this Society, the Deposit shall be returned; and if admitted, the same shall be allowed in Part for his or their Entrance Money; but should a rejected Candidate be again proposed, and again rejected, such second and other Deposites, occasioned

Deposit.

caſioned by repeated rejections, ſhall be forfeited to the Society.

II.

The Election of each Member of this Society, and all other Matters relating to the ſame, (except what reſpects the chooſing of a Committee, as contained in the twenty ſecond Article) ſhall be decided by Ballot, for which Purpoſe a Box ſhall be provided with two Apartments, one of which to be marked with the Word "FOR," and the other with the Word "AGAINST," which ſhall be placed in a private Place in the Club-Room, and each Member ſhall receive from the Preſident or whom he ſhall appoint, a Ball; and each Member who is inclined to vote in favour of ſuch Candidate, or ſuch Queſtion as ſhall then be before this Society, ſhall put ſuch Ball into that Apartment of the ſaid Box marked with the Word "FOR," but if he is inclined to vote againſt ſuch Candidate or Queſtion then before this Society, he ſhall put ſuch Ball into the other Apartment of the ſaid Box, marked with the Word "AGAINST." And if at the Conclusion of ſuch Ballot there ſhall appear a Majority of Balls in the Apartment of the ſaid Box marked with the Word "FOR;" then if the Buſineſs before the Society is the Election of a Member, the Candidate propoſed ſhall be duly elected a Member of this Soci-

The Man-
ner of deci-
ding all
Queſtions
and diſputes

ety; and if it should be any other Question respecting this Society, such Ballot shall be declared in favor of the Question. But if the Majority of Balls shall appear in the other Apartment of the said Box, marked with the Word "AGAINST," then the Candidate so proposed, or such other Question then before this Society, shall be declared to be rejected or negatived. And if there shall be an equal Number of Balls in each Apartment of the Box, then the President shall, by putting a Ball into either of the said Apartments, create a Majority, and thereby determine such Election or other Question then before this Society.

III.

Age for Admission.

THAT no Person who is above the Age of fifty Years, shall be admitted a Member of this Society, from and after the Day of the Date hereof, till the second Day of February, 1792; and after that Time, no Person shall be admitted a Member thereof, who is above the Age of forty Years. Any Stranger may be introduced into this Society by a Member at any Meeting, for that Time only, he paying his share of the Reckoning; but if he causes any Disturbance, he shall be immediately dismissed.

Liberty to introduce a Stranger.

IV.

President's Charge.

THAT on the Admission of a new Member,

ber, from and after the said second Day of February, 1792, the President shall command Silence, and shall repeat to such Member the following Words:—" Sir, Take Notice, if
 " you are above the Age of forty Years,
 " and have any bodily Infirmities to your
 " Knowledge, such as the Gout, Rheuma-
 " tism, or any other Disorder, so that at par-
 " ticular Seasons you are incapable of follow-
 " ing your Business; and if any of these
 " Things be made out against you to the Sa-
 " tisfaction of the Society, upon the Evi-
 " dence of Three credible Witnesses, you
 " shall be expelled the Society, without re-
 " ceiving any Benefit or Advantage what-
 " ever from the Fund."—The President for each Neglect of reading this Declaration on the Admission of a Member, shall forfeit and pay one Shilling to this Society. And should any Person gain Admittance as a Member into this Society, by false Pretences, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of these Articles, he shall be expelled this Society whenever it shall be clearly proved against him by Three credible Witnesses, and all the Money he has paid into the Stock shall become forfeited to this Society: And if it shall be suspected by any Member, that any Person admitted a Member of this Society, is above the Age of forty Years, at the Time of his Admission, from and after the said second Day of February, 1792, such Member shall within the Space of six Calendar Months next after such

Fine:

False Pre-
tences.

Produce his Register, if required.

President's Fine, if he wilfully connive at the Admission of an improper Member

such Suspicion shall be notified to him by the President of this Society, produce and deliver to this Society, a Certificate of the Registry of his Birth, duly authenticated by the Clergyman or Clerk of the Parish where he was born, or other Person who shall have such Registry, or on Default thereof, such Member shall be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits and Advantages arising from the same, And if the President of this Society shall admit any Person a Member thereof, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Article, such President shall forfeit and pay to this Society, Ten Shillings, for each Neglect or Default.

V.

Terms of Admission.

Payments to the Fund.

Money to be spent at the Meetings.

THAT each Member shall pay as admission Money, Two Guineas, in Manner following, (that is to say) One Guinea at the Time of his Entrance, and Ten Shillings and Sixpence at each of the two next following Meetings; and that every Member shall, over and above the said Admission Money, pay the Sum of Five Shillings at each and every Quarterly Meeting, and also at each and every other of the said Meetings, held at the End of six Weeks after each Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days, making in all eight Payments in the Year, which said Monies shall be paid into the Fund of this Society, and each Member of this Society shall spend Fourpence at each and every of the said Meetings, in the House

House in which this Society shall meet. All Forfeitures to become due and payable to this Society from any of the Members thereof, by Virtue of these Articles, shall be paid within three Months after each of such Forfeitures shall be incurred, under the Penalty of one Shilling for each Neglect, and the Clerk shall keep a minute Book under the Inspection of the President, in which the said Forfeitures shall be entered. And if any of such Forfeitures shall not be paid in Half a Year next after the same shall become payable in Manner aforesaid, the Member or Members from whom such Forfeitures shall become due, shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings and Sixpence; and if the same shall not be paid in three Quarters of a Year, then he or they shall forfeit and pay to this Society, the Sum of Four Shillings; and if the same shall not be paid in one Year, he or they shall be expelled this Society, and totally excluded from all Benefits and Advantages arising therefrom.

Forfeitures
when to be
paid.

VI.

THAT the first Meeting of this Society shall be held at the House of Michael Arthur, the Sign of the Chancellor's Head, in Newgate-street, in Newcastle upon Tyne, on the 2d Day of February, 1791;—the second Meeting on the first Wednesday next after the 25th Day of March, 1791, which shall be deemed the first Quarter Day;—the second
Quarter

Times of
Meeting.

Quarter Day shall be on the first Wednesday next after the 24th Day of June, 1791; — the third Quarter Day shall be on the first Wednesday next after the 29th Day of September, 1791; — and the fourth Quarter Day, or Yearly Meeting Day, shall be held on the first Wednesday next after the 25th Day of December, 1791. And the said several Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days shall be continued Yearly, on the first Wednesday next after the following Days or Times, (that is to say) the 25th Day of March, the 24th Day of June, the 29th Day of September, and the 25th Day of December, unless any of the aforesaid Days or Times should fall on a Wednesday, and then such Day shall be the Meeting Day. And there shall be also yearly four other intermediate Meeting Days, to be held on the first Wednesday next after the Expiration of the first six Weeks after each and every of the said respective Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days. The Hour of Meeting on each of the aforesaid Days (except the Yearly Meeting at Christmas) shall be at Six of the Clock in the Evening, from the 29th Day of September, to the 25th Day of March; and at Seven of the Clock in the Evening, from the 25th Day of March, to the 29th Day of September: and to conclude all Business belonging the Society, within two Hours after the aforesaid appointed Hours of Meeting; and every Member shall be present or his Money sent, at the Hour appointed to meet,

Quarterly
Meeting
Day

Hour of
Meeting.

Closing the
Business of
the Meeting

meet, or forfeit Twopence.—The President, four Stewards, and the Clerk, shall attend each Meeting, and shall stay until the Business is finished and the Chest locked up, or forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence each, for every such Neglect, unless he or they be prevented from attending by Sickness, Lameness, or any other reasonable Cause; in which Case the President may depute any Member that has served that Office, to officiate for him. No Steward shall be excused from attending any of the Meetings of this Society, unless he shall send his Reasons in Writing, sealed up, to the President, or shall be liable to the said Fine; and if either the President, senior Stewards, Clerk, or Landlord, so prevented from attending any of the Meetings of this Society as aforesaid, shall neglect to send his or their respective Key or Keys of the Box or Chest belonging to this Society, at or before the respective Hours and Times of Meeting, he or they so offending shall forfeit and pay the said Fine of Two Shillings and Six-pence to this Society.

VII.

THAT this Society shall not be dissolved so long as one-sixth of the Members shall think proper to continue in it; nor shall it be removed from the House where it now held, without a just Cause, and that to be determined by a Majority of the Society, who shall be summoned for that Purpose. And if any

C

Member

Fine for
Non pay-
ment.

Officer's
Fine.

In the Ab-
sence of any
Officer, the
President
may depute.

Stewards to
write to the
President, if
they cannot
attend.

To prevent
the Society
being dissol-
ved.

Penalty.

Member shall contrive or endeavour to break up this Society, or consult or advise with any Member or Members thereof, to divide the Money or Effects of this Society, every Member so offending shall be fined Ten Shillings and Sixpence, or be expelled this Society, as the Majority of the Members thereof shall determine.

VIII.

Time and
Manner of
choosing the
President.

THAT a President shall be chosen at every yearly Meeting at Christmas, in the Manner following; (that is to say) the President and the two senior Stewards for the Time being, shall each nominate a Member, who shall reside within the Liberties of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, who hath not served, nor been fined (as herein-after mentioned) for not excepting that Office, within three Years then last past; and the Majority of the Members then present shall determine by Ballot, as aforesaid, which of the said three Persons so nominated shall fill that Office. If the Member so elected shall refuse to accept such Office, he shall forfeit and pay to the Society Five Shillings, and the Members then present shall forthwith proceed in like Manner to elect another, who, in case of refusal, shall be subject to the same penalty; and every Member within the distance of five Miles of the Walls of Newcastle upon Tyne, who shall not attend at the Election of the President, shall forfeit and pay to this Society the

Distance
that excuses
Members
Attendance.

the Sum of one Shilling.

IX.

THAT the President so chosen, shall be the chief Manager of this Society, and when the Term of his Office is expired, he shall deliver up to the succeeding President, within seven Days then next after, a just and true Account of all the Money that hath been received and disbursed by him during his Presidentship, and shall give up all Securities for Money, and other Papers relating to this Society, in his Possession; or on Failure thereof, shall forfeit and pay to this Society the Sum of Forty-two Pounds, or to the Amount of the Securities and other Property belonging to this Society, then in his Possession, which the Society shall have a Right to sue for, by virtue of these Articles, in the Name of the President and Stewards of this Society for the Time being; and that in the Absence of the President, the senior Steward for the Time being shall take the Chair; and if the senior Steward shall not be present, nor any other of the Stewards of this Society, then the oldest Member present, as they stand in Rotation upon the Books, so that the Business of the Society may not be retarded. Any Member having any Thing to propose to this Society, shall address himself to the President, who shall demand Silence and good Order.

Power and
Duty of the
President.

Penalty.

Who is to
preside in
Absence of
the President.

All Propo-
sitions to be
addressed to
the President.

X.

Time and
Duty of
Stewards.

Forfeit on
refusing to
stand.

THAT there shall be four Stewards chosen every Year; two at Christmas, and two at the Midsummer Meeting, in Rotation, as they stand in the Books of this Society, who shall serve in that Office twelve Months each; and whoever refuses to accept this Office, or shall not be present when his Name is called over by the Clerk, (unless he fills another Office under this Society at the same Time) shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings and Sixpence. The Names of the Members whose Turn it is to serve in the said Office of Stewards, shall be called over by the Clerk at eight o'Clock in the Evening, at the Midsummer Meeting, and before Dinner at the Christmas Meeting.

XI.

The Stewards to account to the Society.

THE Stewards shall deliver at every Meeting a just and clear Account of all Monies that have been disbursed and laid out by them or either of them, on the Account of the Society, or forfeit five Shillings for each Neglect.

XII.

The Clerk annually chosen.
His Duty.

THAT a Clerk shall be chosen annually to act under the President, and keep the Accounts of the Society, who shall at every Meeting publicly make known, in the Presence

sence of the President, Stewards, and the Members then present, the State of the Affairs of this Society, such as the Increase or Decrease of the Stock, the Disbursements and Receipts, to cause every new Member to sign the Articles of this Society, and all other Matters relating to the Business of this Society, and for his Trouble herein each Member shall pay him Sixpence per Year, at Christmas, during his Continuance in that Office. If he neglects to attend at the Hours appointed for Meeting, except he shall be prevented by Sickness or Lameness, of which he shall give Notice, in writing, to the President, he shall forfeit and pay to this Society the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence for each Neglect. And further, that the Clerk shall not, at any Time, receive any Member's Contributions to pay for him or them, to this Society, on pain of losing his Clerkship.

Salary.

Fines.

XIII.

THAT if the President or Stewards shall, at any Time, betray the Trust reposed in them, by embezzling any Monies belonging to this Society, with which they shall be intrusted, or in making any other Use of the same than they are authorised by their Office to do, without the Consent of the Majority of the Society, he or they so offending shall forfeit and pay to this Society, respectively, the Sum of Eighty Pounds, or to such other Amount as they shall then hold of the Society's

President and Stewards for embezzlement or misapplication.

Penalty.

ety's Effects in their Possession, which this Society shall have a Right to sue for by Virtue of these Articles. That two Persons skilled in Accounts, be chosen Yearly on this Day to Inspect the Accounts, who shall immediately set about and make their Report of any Error, if such shall appear, that may have been made during the preceding Year.

XIV.

Visiting the Sick.

THAT the Stewards shall, by regular Turns, once in every Week, visit every sick Member who has given Notice to the Society in Order to take the Benefit of the Fund, and enquire into the Nature and Cause of his Disease; and, in Case of Neglect, shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings for every Default herein. All Members living beyond five Miles of the Walls of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, shall be considered Country Members, in which Case the Stewards are not obliged to attend.

Fine.

Distance.

XV.

When a Member is entitled to Benefit.

THAT no Member shall be entitled to any Benefit arising from the Funds of this Society, till he has subscribed three Years to it from the Time of his Admission, and duly paid his admission Money and all other lawful Demands the Society shall have a Right to claim under these Articles, and after the Expiration of the said three Years, and upon such

such Payments being duly and regularly made, such Member shall be deemed and styled a free Member, and not otherwise. And if any Member shall die before the Expiration of the said three Years, from the Time of his Admission, the Representative or Representatives of such deceased Member, shall be repaid the whole of the Money that such deceased Member shall have paid into the Funds of this Society, after a Deduction is made of all Fines, Forfeitures, and other Payments due to this Society from such deceased Member, according to the Rules and Articles of this Society. And in Case any free Member of this Society shall, at his Death, be in Arrear in his Payments, Fines, &c. (not exceeding the time allowed in the fifth Article) the Representative or Representatives of such deceased free Member, shall first pay or allow such Arrears out of the Legacy, due at the Death of such deceased Member, before he, she, or they shall be intitled to receive the same.

Becomes
Free.

Members
dying before
Free.

XVI.

THAT when any free Member of this Society shall, by the Providence of God, be afflicted with Sicknes, he shall be entitled to Ten Shillings per Week, which shall be carried to his Place of Abode by the Stewards of this Society, provided he be not a country Member, in which Case it shall be remitted him with all possible Dispatch. And if the Indisposition

Allowance
to Sick.

Ten Shillings per Week for twelve Months.

Indisposition of such Member shall continue longer than one Week, the said Stewards shall deliver or convey to him weekly the aforesaid Sum of Ten Shillings per Week, for twelve Calendar Months, if the Sickness of such Member shall so long continue, but no Member shall have or be entitled to receive Ten Shillings per Week for a longer Time than fifty-two Weeks, whether the same be paid every Week successively for that Period, or at different Times remote from each other; when, therefore, such Member or Members shall at any Time have received Ten Shillings per Week for fifty-two Weeks from this Society, and such Member or Members shall still continue to be afterwards incapacitated by Sickness from prosecuting his or their lawful Trades or Occupations, he or they shall be only allowed six Shillings per Week, while such Sickness or Indisposition continues. And if any free Member or free Members of this Society shall at any Time become totally Blind, he or they shall be paid and allowed the Sum of Seven Shillings per Week, so long as he or they shall labour under that Misfortune, and until he or they recover his or their Sight.

Blind.

Diseased Members to give Notice.

XVII.

THAT every sick Member shall give Notice of his Disorder, or cause it to be done to the Clerk, who shall give Notice thereof to one or more of the Stewards, within the Space

Space of twenty-four Hours next after he shall receive such Notice from such Member, or forfeit One Shilling for such Neglect, and the Steward or Stewards to whom such Notice shall be given, shall visit such Member or Members within the Space of twenty-four Hours next after he or they shall receive such notice, or forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence; and if the Stewards find the Case to be as represented to them, they shall instantly pay him or them Ten Shillings. But in Case they have the least Doubt or Suspicion in Respect to the person's Disease who is represented to them to be Sick, they shall then apply to a Surgeon, to examine such diseased Member or Members, and give his Opinion thereon; and the said Steward or Stewards shall act accordingly.--Every country Member calling on the Box of this Society, shall send a Certificate, in Writing, to the Purport or Effect set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intitled No. 1, setting forth his Disease, and that he is incapable of carrying on his Business, the same to be signed by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish wherein he resides, or by the Minister and two respectable Persons of the Congregation to whom he belongs; and, on his Recovery, an Affidavit shall be immediately sent, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunder written intitled No. 2 and No. 3, that such Member was afflicted during the whole Time he received Benefit from the

Visiting
Sick.

Payment to
Sick.

Treatment.

Remote
Members.

Affidavit.

D

Funds

Funds of this Society, as expressed in the said Certificate; and, if it appears that such Member has imposed upon the Society, he shall be immediately expelled this Society, and receive no further Benefit or Advantage therefrom.—All Letters to be directed to the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen in Newcastle upon Tyne, and Post paid.

Letters Post
paid.

XVIII.

Members
disqualified
to receive
Benefit.

Without the
Kingdoms
of Britain
and Ireland.

Restrictions

Entering
into the
King's Ser-
vice.

THAT no Member shall receive, or be intitled to any Benefit or Allowance from this Society, for or on Account of any Misfortune, Hurt, or Injury, which he or they shall or may receive by boxing, bruising, or fighting; nor shall any Member or Members of this Society, receive or be intitled to any Benefit or Allowance from this Society, who shall constantly reside out of the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland, or either of them, unless he or they shall be impressed as a Sailor or Soldier into the Service of the Government of the said Kingdom, or either of them; or unless such Member or Members shall by Reason and on Account of his Profession as a Sailor or Merchant, be obliged to visit foreign Countries, in any of which Cases, such Member or Members must pay up all Arrears due from him or them to this Society, before he or they shall be intitled to receive any Benefit or Allowance from the Funds of this Society. And if any Member or Members of this Society, shall enlist into his

his Majesty's Service by Sea or Land, he shall be immediately expelled this Society, and be excluded from all Benefit and Advantages arising from the same. And if any Member or Members of this Society, shall frequent Gaming-houses, bet Wagers, or appear Drunk or intoxicated with Liquor at any Time when he or they is or are receiving any weekly Allowance from the Funds of this Society, he shall for each Offence forfeit and pay to this Society Ten Shillings, and in Default of Payment thereof when required of him or them, he or they shall immediately be expelled this Society, and totally excluded from all further Benefit or Advantages arising from the same. And no Member or Members afflicted with the Venereal Disease shall have or be entitled to any weekly Allowance from this Society, for or on Account of such illness.

Gaming,
Drinking, or
disorderly,
when on the
Box.

XIX.

THAT at the Death of any free Member of this Society, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall, upon producing to this Society a Certificate, in writing, of the Death of such Member, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intituled No. 5, shall be paid by the President, for the Time being, of this Society, out of the Funds of the said Society, the Sum of Thirty Pounds, if the said Funds shall not at that Time exceed the

Death of
Members.
To whom
the Legacy
ought to be
paid.
Authority.

Sums to be
paid.

Sum of Three Hundred Pounds; and if such Funds shall then amount to more than the Sum of three Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Thirty-five Pounds; and if such Funds shall then amount to more than the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Forty Pounds; and if the Funds of this Society shall amount to more than the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid by the President of this Society, the Sum of Forty-five Pounds; and if the Funds of this Society shall amount to more than the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Fifty Pounds.—The said respective Payments to be made at the End of two Calendar Months next after the Death of such Member of this Society. And every Member of this Society shall, upon the Decease of any of the Members thereof, pay into the Funds of this Society the Sum of Five Shillings, towards keeping up the Funds of the said Society.

When to be
paid.

Members'
contribution
at the Death
of a Member

XX.

THAT every free Member of this Society
shall

shall have and be intitled to receive the Sum of Five Pounds from this Society, at the Death of his lawful Wife, such Member providing a decent Funeral, and also producing a Certificate, in writing, of their Marriage, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intitled No 4, if required.

Death of
Member's
Wives.

Attestation.

XXI.

THAT every Member of this Society who lives to attain the Age of Seventy Years, and shall be in straitened Circumstances, may (if he chooses to accept it) on his attaining that Age, and fully proving it to this Society, and also giving Notice thereof to this Society, in writing, be exempt from all Manner of Contributions to this Society (except Fines), and notwithstanding be entitled to all the Benefits and Advantages arising from this Society.

Priviledges
of Members
who attains
the Age of
Seventy.

XXII.

THAT whenever any Disputes or Differences shall arise amongst the Members of this Society, or any of them, respecting the Construction, true Intent, and Meaning, of any of the Articles, Rules, and Regulations, contained in these present Articles, the same shall be referred to a Committee, to consist of Eleven Members present at a Meeting of this Society, who shall be appointed in the following Manner, (that is to say) the President
to

A Commit-
tee to settle
Differences.

to nominate three, one of whom shall be Foreman; and the four Stewards, two each; and the said Members thus chosen shall receive from the President an Account, in writing, of the Matter in Dispute; and the said Committee, immediately on receipt thereof, shall withdraw into a private Room in the House in which this Society shall meet, and carefully peruse these present Articles, and immediately determine the Matters in Question, which shall be done by a Majority of such Committee of Eleven Members. And the said Committee shall, immediately after such Determination, return into the Club Room, and make a Report thereof, in writing, to be delivered by the Foreman of the said Committee to the President of this Society, and shall be entered in a Book by the Clerk of this Society, to be provided and kept for that Purpose; and such Determination shall be final and conclusive. But no Committee shall be appointed for the Purposes aforesaid, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, unless a Majority of the Members of this Society be present in the Club-Room; neither shall any Disputes and Differences respecting this Society, or the Rules and Articles contained in these Presents, be decided at any other Time than on a six-week's Meeting; and any Member refusing to act as a Member of such Committee, after being appointed as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay to this Society the Sum of Five Shillings, and another Member shall

Determinations to be registered.

No Committee without a Majority of the Society be present.

shall forthwith be chosen in his Stead.

XXIII.

THAT no Member of this Society may pretend Ignorance of the Rules and Regulations contained in these Articles, every Member shall buy a printed Copy of these Articles, for which he shall pay Sixpence into the Fund of this Society. Every Member shall sign his Name to these Articles, with the Addition of his Place of Abode and Trade, his Age, and the Time of his being admitted a Member.

Members
obliged to
purchase a
Copy of the
Articles.

Members to
sign.

XXIV.

THAT every Member upon his becoming Free of this Society, shall receive a proper Certificate, signed by the President and Stewards for the Time being, by Virtue of which he, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, will be intitled to receive all Benefits and Allowances which he or they shall respectively be intitled to from the Funds of this Society by Virtue of these Articles, and which Certificate may be assigned over by such Member or Members for a full and valuable Consideration, but not otherwise.

Every Mem-
ber to have
a Certificate

May be
assigned.

XXV.

THAT when any free Member shall assign his Certificate to any Person or Persons, and he shall not at his Death leave Effects sufficient

Members
who having
assigned
their Certi-

ficates, and
dying with-
out Effects,
to bury them

sufficient to discharge his funeral Expences, then in such Case, it shall be at the Discretion of the President and Stewards to provide or not provide for such Member out of this Society a decent Funeral, but the Expence whereof shall not exceed three Pounds.

XXVI.

Members of
this Society
to be exclu-
ded, if they
engage in
any other.

THAT no Person who is a Member of or belonging to any other Benefit Society, shall be admitted a Member of this Society; likewise any Member of this Society, who shall enter into and become a Member of any other Society of the like Nature, shall be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits, Allowances, and Advantages arising or to arise from the Funds of the same.

XXVII.

Members to
contribute
to increase
the Fund.

THAT whenever the Stock of this Society shall be reduced to less than three Pounds to every Member thereof, then the Members of this Society shall contribute equally at the first Quarterly Meeting then next after, to advance the Funds to that Amount, or be excluded this Society.

XXVIII.

Surplus Mo-
ney. How to
be dispos'd of

THAT the President and Stewards for the Time being of this Society, shall from Time to Time, when and as often as the Cash belonging to the Funds of this Society (except what

what may be required for the Exigencies of this Society) shall amount to the Sum of Fifty Pounds, invest and place the same out at Interest on such Securities as the Majority of the Members of this Society shall determine, at the first six week's Meeting which shall happen after the Funds shall amount to that Sum.

XXIX.

THAT if any Member of this Society shall divulge or expose any of the Secrets or Debates of this Society to any Person not a Member thereof, such Member so offending shall, on Proof thereof by any Person of Credit to the Satisfaction of a Majority of the Members then present, forfeit and pay Two Shillings and Sixpence to this Society, or be expelled the same.

Exposing
Secrets.

Penalty.

XXX.

THAT there shall be a Box or Chest provided to contain the Books, Cash, and all Papers belonging to this Society, and the same shall have five Locks and five Keys of different Constructions; one to be kept by the President of this Society, one by each of the senior Stewards, one by the Clerk, and one by the Landlord of the House in which the Society meets: and which said President, senior Stewards, Clerk, and Landlord, shall be present at every Meeting of this Society at the respective Hours of Meeting, with
E their

Box, its Use
and Description.

Fine, in Default of Keys being sent.

their respective Keys, or be fined Two Shillings and Sixpence. Vide Art. 6.

XXXI.

Punishment of Perjury.

THAT if any Member of this Society shall be convicted of Perjury, or any Felonious Act, in any Court of Judicature in those Kingdoms, such Member shall, at the next Quarterly Meeting after such Conviction, be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits, Allowances, and Advantages, arising or to arise from the Funds of this Society; nor shall such expelled Member be again received into this Society, without a Majority of three-fourths of the Members then belonging to this Society, at the Yearly Meeting next after such Expulsion, vote for his Re-admission; and in that Case, such Member shall pay the same Sums into the Funds of this Society, that any other Person would have to pay on being elected a Member thereof.

Leave to appeal at the yearly Meeting.

If re-admitted to pay the same as a new Member.

XXXII.

A Yearly Dinner.

THAT there shall be a Dinner provided at the House in which this Society shall hold their Meetings, on every yearly Meeting-day, and that every Member of this Society (whether present or absent) shall pay Three Shillings towards it. And that on such every yearly Meeting-day, there shall be an occasional Sermon preached, provided the Majority of the Members of this Society shall approve

A Sermon yearly, if approved by a Majority.

prove of it, at such Place of divine Worship as the Majority of the Members of this Society, at the Meeting next before such yearly Meeting shall determine, and the Minister shall be paid Ten Shillings and Sixpence from the Funds of this Society.

XXXIII.

THAT the Landlord of the House in which this Society shall hold its Meetings, shall have a good Fire in the Club Room, on every Meeting-night, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, or forfeit One Shilling for each neglect; and that he shall also enter into and become bound in a Bond, with one or more sufficient Surety or Sureties, to the President, for the Time being, of this Society, in the Penalty of One Hundred Pounds, to produce the Box in which the Cash, Books, Papers, and other Things belonging to this Society, shall be kept, at every Meeting, at the usual Time of meeting, and at other Times when lawfully required by the President and Stewards of this Society.

A Fire to
be lighted in
the Room.

Landlord's
Security.

XXXIV.

To preserve good Order and Decorum in this Society, the several Fines hereinafter mentioned shall be imposed on every Member who shall imprudently subject himself to them, (that is to say);

Fines for va-
rious Mis-
demeanors.

Whoever causes a Quarrel in the Club
E 2 Room,

Quarrel in
the Room.

Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling.

Swearing. Whoever shall curse or swear in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling.

Ill Language. Whoever shall use abusive or obscene Language in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling.

Wagers. Whoever shall bet Wagers, or promote gaming, in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, Sixpence.

Contempt and Defamation. Whoever degrades a Brother of this Society, except it be for breaking any of these Articles, shall forfeit One Shilling.

Reflections. Whoever reflects upon any Member of this Society, either in or out of the Club-Room, for being chargeable to the Society, shall forfeit for the first Offence, Two Shillings; second, Four Shillings; third, Eight Shillings, or be expelled this Society.

Liquor and Tobacco. Whoever shall call for Liquor or Tobacco, without the Leave of the President, shall pay for it himself.

Nick Names Whoever calls any Member of this Society any Nick Names in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling.

Whoever

Whoever shall smoke at the President's Table without his Leave, shall forfeit Sixpence.

Smoaking.

Whoever shall refuse to be silent when Silence has been three Times called by the President, shall forfeit for each Offence, Sixpence.

Silence.

Whoever shall cause party Factions or any contentious Argument concerning either Party, Church, or State, shall forfeit for each Offence, Two Shillings.

Party Factions.

Whoever shall insult the President or Stewards in their Office, and refuse to go to their Seats when repured by the President, shall forfeit for every Offence, One Shilling.

Insult and Disobedience.

All Fines to be paid into the Funds of this Society.

Fines to go into the Funds.

XXXV.

THAT if any Debate shall arise concerning any Matter or Thing, which may be deemed for the Good of this Society, and the better Order and Regulation of the same, in such Case the Clerk shall send a written Summons to every Member to meet on the next Meeting immediately following, at least a Fortnight before such Meeting shall take place, at least one calendar Month next before such Quarter Day, and the Members then present

Manner of adding new Articles.

By a Majority of three-fourths.

Penalty.

sent shall and may, and are hereby empowered (if a Majority of Three-fourths of the Members shall be present) to add any new Article or Articles to these present Articles, and which new Article or Articles shall be of equal Force and Validity with these present Articles, provided that none of the Rules or Articles contained in these Presents, shall be destroyed or made void by any of such new Rules or Articles. And that no such new Rules or Articles shall be made, unless the same shall be approved of by a Majority of Three-fourths of all the whole Members of this Society. And if any Member shall not attend the Meeting in Consequence of such Summons, he or they so neglecting, shall forfeit and pay to this Society One Shilling. And when any urgent, or special Business shall require the Members of this Society to meet prior to their regular stated Times of Meeting, such Member or Members being summoned by the Clerk for that Purpose, he or they neglecting to attend such Meeting, shall forfeit One Shilling to this Society. But no such Meeting shall be called without the unanimous Consent of the President, four Stewards, and Clerk, of the Society.

XXXVI.

Members entitled to a Loan of Twenty Pounds.

THAT if any free Member, by Losses or other Misfortunes in Trade or Business, shall become a Bankrupt, or be obliged to compound with his Creditors, and no Charge of Fraud

Fraud appear against him, then the Society do hereby agree to advance to such unfortunate Member or Members the Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling, from the Funds of this Society, provided he or they do provide satisfactory Security to repay the principal without Interest by Instalments, in four Payments of Five Pounds each, at the End of every six successive Months from the Date of the said Security. But no Member of this Society shall receive the Sum of Twenty Pounds more than once.

Manner of
Payment.

XXXVII.

THAT if any free Member of this Society shall, by unavoidable Misfortune, become Insolvent, and shall at any Time during such Insolvency, be confined in Gaol at the Suit or Suits of one or more of his Creditor or Creditors, and no Imputation of Fraud be proved against him, such Member shall have and be allowed so long as he shall be so confined in Gaol, Two Shillings per Week, out of the Funds of this Society.

Imprison-
ment Al-
lowance of
Two Shil-
lings per
Week.

XXXVIII.

THAT as this Society is intended for the mutual Benefit and Advantage of every Member thereof, it is earnestly recommended that all Persons thereunto belonging, do assist and encourage each other in their respective Trades and Occupations as much as they conveniently can, in Order that the
Usefulness

Recom-
mended that
the Mem-
bers pro-
mote each
others Wel-
fare.

Usefulness of this Society to all its Members,
may become as extensive as possible.

XXXIX.

Members
Certificate
to be produ-
ced at their
Death.

THAT the Widow, or personal Represen-
tative or Representatives, claiming the Le-
gacy arising from the Death of a deceased
Member, shall produce and deliver the Cer-
tificate that such Member received from this
Society on his becoming a free Member
thereof, or she, he, or they shall not be en-
titled to receive such Legacy, except it shall
clearly appear that such Certificate had been
lost or mislaid; in which Case the Party or
Parties so applying, shall, at their own Cost,
give public Notice, by Advertisement, three
successive Weeks in all the Newcastle New-
papers, agreeable to the Form set forth in the
annexed Schedule marked No. 6 And
when any free Member of this Society shall
be expelled this Society, Notice thereof shall
be given in the London Gazette, provided
the Majority of this Society so determine it,
that in Case of such Member having trans-
ferred his Certificate, the Holder thereof
may have that warning to indemnify himself.

Notice to be
given in the
Gazettee.

XL.

And for the true Payment, Performance,
and Observance of all and every the Articles,
Covenants, Clauses, and Conditions, we do
hereby respectively bind ourselves, as witnesses
our Hands.

No. 1. *Referred to in Art. 7.*

The Form of a Certificate from a Member in the Country, in Case of Sickneſs or Lameneſs, requiring Benefit from this Society :

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and Members of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, that A. B. of [Here inſert the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of the ſaid Society, is now Sick or Lame [Here mention the particular Circumſtances of his Diſorder] and requeſts that the Society would tranſmit to him ſuch weekly Benefits as he is intitled to from the ſaid Society.

We, the Miniſter and Churchwardens of do hereby teſtify the Truth of the above Certificate, in Teſtimony whereof we have hereunto ſet our Hands the Day of One Thouſand Seven Hundred

*Confirmed by
Phyſician, Surgeon,
or Apothecary.*

Miniſter.

} Church-Wardens.

No. 2. Referred to in Art. 17:

The Form of an Affidavit required to be taken by any Member who shall be suspected of receiving the Benefit of Ten Shillings per Week from this Society, not having a Right to the same, according to the Rules and Articles of the said Society.

*To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in
Newcastle upon Tyne.*

*A. B. of [Here insert the Place of Abode and Trade]
being a Member of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen,
maketh Oath, that during the whole Time wherein he
received the Benefit of Ten Shillings per Week from the
said Society, he was incapable, by Sickness, to exercise or
perform any kind of Business.*

*Sworn this Day of One Thousand Seven
Hundred and before me, one of his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the*

No. 3. Referred to in Art. 17.

A Form of an Affidavit required to be taken by any Member who shall be suspected of receiving the Benefit of Six Shillings per Week from this Society, not having a Right to the same, according to the Rules and Articles of the said Society.

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A. B. of [Here insert the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, maketh Oath, that during the Time he hath received the Benefit of Six Shillings per Week from the said Society, he hath not done any kind of Business whatsoever, and that he hath not been able to exercise or carry on any Business on account of Sicknefs or Lameness [as the Case may happen to be] during the Time he hath received such Allowance from the said Society.

*Sworn this Day of One Thousand Seven
Hundred and before me, one of his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the*

No. 4. *Referred to in Art. 20.*

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by any Member
on the Decease of his Wife, directed to the Clerk
of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle
upon Tyne, (post paid)

*To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in
Newcastle upon Tyne.*

*This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and
Members of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcas-
tle upon Tyne, that A. B. the Wife of J. B. of [Here in-
sert the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of
the said Society, departed this Life on the Day of
One Thousand Seven Hundred and and was
buried the Day of at the Church of*

Witness our Hands this Day of 17

Minister.

Clerk.

No 5. Referred to in Art. 19.

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by the Friends or Relations of any deceased Member, directed to the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne, (post paid)

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and Members, of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne, that A. B late of [Here insert his late Place of Abode] was before his Death a Member of the said Society, and that he departed this Life the Day of One Thousand Seven Hundred and and was buried the Day of at the Church of

As witness our Hands this Day of 17

Minister.

Clerk.

No. 6. *Referred to in Art. 39*

Newcastle,

Notice is hereby given, that any Person or Persons whatever, who have any Claim or Demand on the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, held at _____ in this Town, on Account of A. B. _____ of _____ deceased, late a Member of the aforesaid Society, are hereby required immediately to apply to the President and Stewards of the said Society, and to produce and deliver the Certificate which belonged to the aforesaid A. B. or the Legacy due by his Death, will be paid to (Widow or Representative as may happen) and no further Claim will be, in future, admitted.

THE END.



